

# **Timber Island Provincial Nature Reserve**

## **Interim Management Statement**

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Ontario

Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources

Hon. Vincent G. Kerrio  
Minister

Mary Mogford  
Deputy Minister

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL STATEMENT

September 27, 1985

Timber Island was placed into regulation as a nature reserve class provincial park on January 24, 1985. This interim management statement will direct the management of Timber Island Provincial Nature Reserve until a comprehensive management plan is prepared.

Approved:



J. R. Oatway  
Regional Director  
Eastern Region

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<b>NAME:</b> Timber Island Provincial Nature Reserve	<b>REGIONAL SETTING MAP</b> <b>Scale</b> 1:2,000,000 
<b>PROPOSED CLASS:</b> Nature Reserve	
<b>M.N.R. DISTRICT:</b> Napanee	
<b>M.N.R. REGION:</b> Eastern	
<b>TOTAL AREA(ha):</b> 44 <b>LAND:</b> 41 <b>WATER:</b> 3	
<b>SITE REGION:</b> 6	
<b>SITE DISTRICT:</b> 15 (Picton)	
<b>DATE in REGULATION:</b> Jan 24, 1985	

### TARGETS

#### 1 LIFE SCIENCE REPRESENTATION

site type/landscape unit	species/communities
= Dry to very dry, cooler than normal, limestone rock and shallow loam/clay-loam soil site types. - Minor wet mesic to wet depressions	- Oak-Hickory forest and parkland - Provincially and regionally rare plants - On significant bird migration corridor

#### 2 EARTH SCIENCE REPRESENTATION

geological theme	feature
- Middle Ordovician marine platform carbonate environment - Pleistocene environments - Recent environments	- Verulam Formation in 3m cliff around island, fair representation only - Glacially moulded island - Cobble beaches, shore cliffs

#### 3 CULTURAL RESOURCE REPRESENTATION

theme	theme segment
N.A.	N.A.

#### 4 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

day use	car camping	wilderness/back country
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

### INVENTORIES

level	type	earth science	life science	cultural	recreational	other
reconnaissance	completion date	1977	1969	-	-	(IBP-1969)
detailed	completion date					
reconnaissance		no	Yes	no	no	bird

## MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

### I Land Tenure and Park Boundary

The entire island is owned by the province, having been donated by the previous owner, Barbara Cody, in 1962. To have better control over access to the island, a 10 m extension into Lake Ontario has been included within the park boundary (see map 2).

#### Guideline

No land acquisition or boundary changes are required.

### II Classification and Zoning

The park has been designated as a nature reserve class park, as reflected in the name. As no single access point can be designated (see section on access), the 10 m water (and lake bed) extension is best designated as an access zone in its entirety.

#### Guideline

The entire island will be managed as a nature reserve zone; the extension into Lake Ontario will be managed as an access zone.

### III Resource Management

#### Mineral Resources

Nature Reserve classification protects the park from mineral resource exploration or extraction. Earth science features in the park are considered to be of local significance only, so their value for scientific research is minimal.

#### Guideline

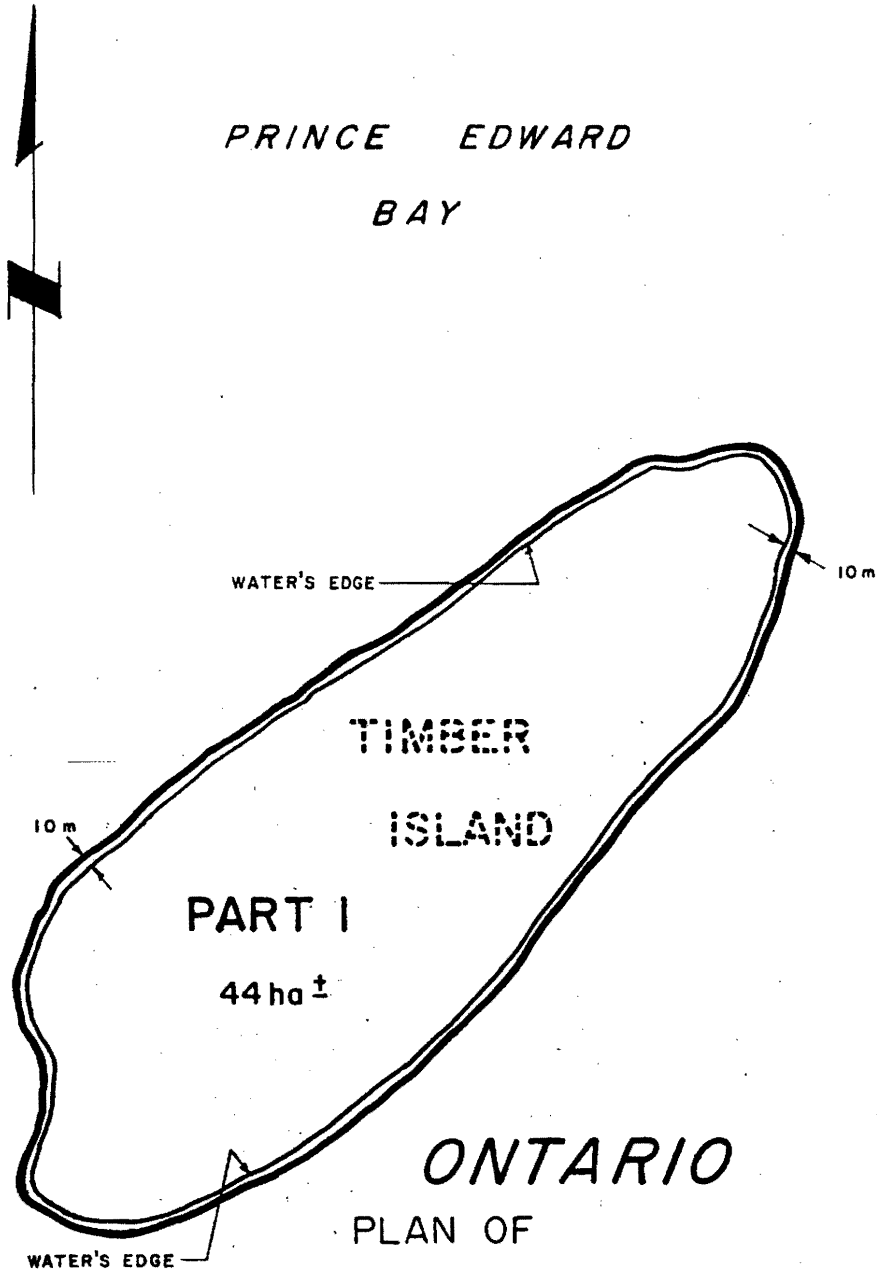
The Regional Director may authorize geological research provided that it enhances the knowledge of the earth science resources of the park and does not impact upon park values.

#### Wildlife Resources

The park is located on a major bird migration route which crosses the eastern end of Lake Ontario. The extent to which the island is used by migrating birds for resting and feeding is not known. It is, however, undoubtedly valuable to birds forced down by bad weather during migration.

Timber Island was a nesting site for the Bald Eagle prior to 1963. It may

PRINCE EDWARD  
BAY



LAKE

ONTARIO  
PLAN OF  
TIMBER ISLAND  
PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE

IN THE  
TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH MARYSBURGH  
COUNTY OF PRINCE EDWARD



be a suitable site for re-establishing the species as a breeding resident of eastern Lake Ontario.

Nature Reserve classification protects the park from hunting and trapping.

#### Guidelines

- 1) In conformity with Provincial Park Planning and Management Policies, hunting and trapping will not be permitted in the park.
- 2) The cooperation of the Kingston Field Naturalists and the Canadian Wildlife Service will be sought in compiling basic wildlife data and in developing a wildlife management plan for the park.
- 3) The Regional Director may authorize wildlife research provided it enhances knowledge of the park's wildlife resources and does not impact upon park values.
- 4) The re-introduction of the Bald Eagle to the island will be investigated and implemented if feasible.

#### Vegetation Resources

Most of the park's vegetation is at various stages of succession following extensive disturbances (agriculture, grazing and fire) in the early part of the century. On sites with very shallow, dry soils succession has been much slower, resulting in a mosaic of grassland, shrubland and forest vegetation which provides good wildlife habitat.

Timber Island is thought to be part of a postglacial plant migration route across the eastern end of Lake Ontario. Despite its disturbance history, the island has a relatively high diversity of plant species, including some which are regionally to provincially rare. An area of mature oak/hickory forest and parkland represents a forest community not found in other provincial parks in eastern Ontario.

While fire has played a major role in the history of the development of the island's vegetation and should be considered as a management tool for maintaining diversity, there are a number of attendant problems. The size of the island and its tendency to experience severe droughts leave it vulnerable to fires which could devastate the entire island. Access for the purpose of fire control is also difficult as ministry patrol boats are normally docked in the Bay of Quinte, some 50 km away.

#### Guidelines

- 1) The park's vegetation will normally be allowed to succeed naturally, without intervention by man. Only if other significant park values (such as provincially rare species) are threatened will active vegetation management be considered.
- 2) An inventory and mapping of the park's vegetation will be undertaken, at which time a decision will be made on whether a vegetation management plan is required.

3) Fires of any kind will not be allowed in the park; all fires occurring naturally or otherwise will normally be extinguished as quickly as practicable. If the inventory and analysis of the park's vegetation suggests that fire should be considered as a management tool, then this will be addressed in a vegetation management plan.

4) The Regional Director may authorize vegetation-related research provided it contributes to the knowledge of the park's plants or plant communities and does not impact adversely upon park values.

#### IV Client Services

As a nature reserve, the principle objective for the park will be resource protection. However, in keeping with the philosophy of nature reserve class provincial parks and with the wishes of the late Barbara Cody, who donated the island to the province, limited use by scientific researchers and naturalists will be permitted.

##### Guidelines

1) Basic information about the park will be included in general ministry publications. A one page fact sheet has been prepared for the park and is being distributed when specific inquiries are received. This will be updated and modified as necessary.

2) Except for emergencies, all access to the park will be authorized by the Regional Director or District Manager. Authorization to visit the park may be given to individuals (for research or nature study) or to groups such as field-naturalist organizations. All visitors must abide by guidelines for party size and permissible activities. Overnight camping will not be permitted unless required to complete a specific research project (such as a bird migration survey).

#### V Access and Development

Access to the park is across approximately 2 km of open water. The exposed shoreline of the island makes it difficult to designate any one landing point; boats normally land in the lee of the island. Development of a docking facility would be prohibitively expensive and would encourage unauthorized use of the island.

Helicopter landings on the island for illegal purposes (hunting) have been reported in the past.

##### Guidelines

1) Access facilities will not be developed. Boat access may be restricted to certain sections of the shoreline.

2) No onshore facilities will be developed.

3) Aircraft landings will not be permitted on the island except in emergency situations.



## SOURCES

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